

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Membership Balance Plan
Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing

- (1) **Name:** Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES)
- (2) **Authority:** The Secretary of Commerce, having determined that it is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department by law and with the concurrence of the General Services Administration, has established the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES), pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. ACCRES will provide information, advice, and recommendations to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (the Under Secretary) on matters relating to the U.S. commercial remote sensing space industry and NOAA's activities to carry out the responsibilities of the Department of Commerce set forth in the National and Commercial Space Programs Act of 2010 (51 U.S.C. §§ 60101 *et seq.*).
- (3) **Mission/Function:** ACCRES functions solely in an advisory capacity and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. ACCRES does not exercise program management or regulatory development responsibilities, nor make any decisions directly affecting the programs on which it provides advice. ACCRES provides a forum for the development, consideration, and communication of information from a knowledgeable, independent perspective.
- a. ACCRES undertakes such information gathering activities as necessary to define issues submitted by NOAA for consideration by the Committee, develops positions on those issues, and presents the Committee's positions to the Under Secretary.
 - b. ACCRES evaluates economic, technological, and institutional developments relating to commercial remote sensing and submits to the Under Secretary recommendations on promising new ideas and approaches for Federal policies and programs.
 - c. ACCRES serves as a forum for the discussion of issues involving the relationship between industry activities and Government policies, programs, and regulatory requirements.
- (4) **Points of View**
- a. **Subject matter/technical expertise**
ACCRES will have a fairly balanced membership consisting of approximately 9 to 15 members serving in a representative capacity. All members should have expertise in remote sensing, space commerce or a related field. Each candidate member shall be recommended by the Assistant Administrator and shall be appointed by the Under

Secretary for a term of 2 years at the discretion of the Under Secretary. Members whose terms have expired may continue to serve until their replacement has been appointed.

A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be chosen by the Under Secretary upon recommendation of the Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, and may be asked to assist in the selection of other Committee members from candidates suggested by appropriate entities.

Members may be represented at Committee meetings and activities by alternates representing the same interest as the member. Alternates shall have the full rights and duties of membership. Selection of an alternate shall be made by the member's organization in writing to the Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, with the approval of the Chairperson, at any time prior to the meeting or activity for which the selection is made. Unless otherwise specified by the Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, the selection is valid for only one meeting or activity, including any continuation of that meeting or activity.

Members of the Committee shall not be compensated for their participation, but may, upon request, be allowed travel and per diem expenses on a case-by-case basis as authorized by 5 U.S.C. §§ 5701 *et seq.*

It is impossible to represent all the areas of expertise needed in the assessment in an umbrella FAC, hence the expectation that sub-committees will be convened that include additional subject matter expertise.

b. Number of individuals to represent each area of expertise/perspective

Due to the process used to identify individuals at the interface of several disciplines, it is difficult to categorize individuals as belonging only to specific areas of expertise. Every one of the members brings several complementary perspectives. Four members represent data providers, four members represent data users, three members represent academia, and two members represent think tanks. Five members are Chief Executive Officers, five members are the Presidents of their organizations, two are Vice Presidents, two are Directors, one is a Department Chair and one is the Chief Technology Officer. More than 80 percent have large satellite Commercial Remote Sensing (CRS) and U. S. Geospatial Intelligence community experience. Two members represent the cube satellite community. The majority of members work to develop and promote CRS Geospatial technologies and their integration into the global marketplace.

c. Determination of Special Government Employee or Representative Member

The ACCRES Committee has no Special Government Employees or Representative Members.

(5) Other Balance Factors

A key ingredient of balance for the ACCRES FAC members is geographic representativeness. Of the three returning members, two represent the East and one represents the West. The returning member's terms expire in 1 year. We plan to appoint five members at this time. Our goal is to have 50 percent of the members replaced each year. Out of 10 potential new members, 4 represent the East, 5 represent the West and 1 represents the South. It was also critical that we include an equal mix of work sectors among the potential members. Three of the potential members are from academic institutions and 67 percent are from private industry. Three candidates are from foundations or Non-Governmental Organizations. There was special attention paid to the balance of CRS and intelligence experience. All members have this experience.

(6) Candidate Identification Process

a. Process used to identify candidates and their professional qualifications

A thorough review of experts was undertaken to identify those who have been engaged in strategic CRS and technology leadership in their organizations.

b. Identify the agency staff involved in determining balance on the Federal advisory committee

The Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, The Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, The Director of Commercial Remote Sensing and Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the ACCRES committee and the Alternate Designated Federal Officers (ADFOs) for the ACCRES committee.

c. Briefly describe how Federal advisory committee vacancies, if any, are handled by the agency (vacancies, and the length of time they remain unfilled, can impact the balance of the Federal advisory committee).

When vacancies occur, members will be replaced with members of similar background and expertise, while also considering geographic representativeness and balance of the Committee.

d. State the membership term limit of Federal advisory committee members, if applicable. Term limits result in turnover of membership and new perspectives, which affects the balance of a Federal advisory committee.

Subject to the continuation of the Committee beyond its initial term, the term limit for new members will be set at 4 years or two terms. The goal is to replace one half of the membership each year. This will result in 6 to 8 potential new members a year on a committee containing 9 to 15 members.

(7) Subcommittee Balance

The process for determining the membership balance of subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent ACCRES Committee.

NOAA may establish subcommittees of its ACCRES Committee members. These subcommittees shall comply with the provisions of FACA and the FACA implementing regulations. Such subcommittees may be established to examine in detail issues of interest to the Committee falling within the scope of this Charter and to make recommendations to the full Committee regarding same. Subcommittees must report back to ACCRES, and will not provide advice or work products directly to NOAA.

(8) Other

Appointments shall be made without discrimination on the basis of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or cultural, religious, or socioeconomic status.

(9) Date Prepared

February 7, 2014